IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 6 as follows:

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1. (Once amended) A method for using a flexible sheet for cutting and handling food articles thereon, comprising:

providing a sheet of flexible resilient plastic material having lay-flat characteristics, a width greater than 6 inches and a length greater than 10 inches;

said plastic material having a Rockwell hardness between 72 and 90;

said plastic material having a thickness between [0.008] 0.010 inches and [0.060] 0.030 inches;

said sheet having sufficient cantilever beam strength when flexed around the longitudinal centerline and held proximate a first end to support an article spaced at least 10 inches from said first end and weighing at least 5 ounces;

placing said sheet on a flat surface;

placing a food article on said sheet;

cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;

flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;

lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said cut pieces; and

funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

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6. (Once amended) A method for using a flexible cutting sheet for food preparation, comprising:

providing a sheet of plastic sheet material having a thickness [less than] in the range of 0.010 to 0.030 inches and a flexural modulus in the range of 75,000 to 200,000 psi;

said sheet having a Rockwell hardness in excess of 72;

placing said sheet on a flat surface;
placing a food article on said sheet;
cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;
flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;
lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said cut pieces; and
funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

Please add the following new claims:

12. A method for using a flexible sheet for cutting and handling food articles thereon, comprising:
providing a sheet of flexible resilient plastic material having lay-flat characteristics, a width greater than 6 inches and a length greater than 10 inches;
said plastic material having a Rockwell hardness between 72 and 90;
said plastic material having a thickness between 0.030 inches and 0.060 inches;
said sheet having sufficient cantilever beam strength when flexed around the longitudinal centerline and held proximate a first end to support an article spaced at least 10 inches from said first end and weighing at least 5 ounces;
placing said sheet on a flat surface;
placing a food article on said sheet;
cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;
flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;
lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said cut pieces; and
funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

13. A method for using a flexible cutting sheet for food preparation, comprising:

providing a sheet of plastic sheet material having a thickness in the range of 0.030 to 0.060 inches and a flexural modulus in the range of 75,000 to 200,000 psi;

said sheet having a Rockwell hardness in excess of 72;

placing said sheet on a flat surface;

placing a food article on said sheet;

cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;

flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;

lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said cut pieces; and

funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

14. A method for using a flexible sheet for cutting and handling food articles thereon, comprising:

providing a sheet of flexible resilient plastic material having lay-flat characteristics, a width greater than 6 inches and a length greater than 10 inches;

said plastic material having a Rockwell hardness between 72 and 90;

said plastic material having a thickness between 0.015 inches and 0.040 inches;

said sheet having sufficient cantilever beam strength when flexed around the longitudinal centerline and held proximate a first end to support an article spaced at least 10 inches from said first end and weighing at least 5 ounces;

placing said sheet on a flat surface;

placing a food article on said sheet;

cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;

flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;

lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said cut pieces; and

funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

15. A method for using a flexible cutting sheet for food preparation, comprising:

providing a sheet of plastic sheet material having a thickness in the range of 0.015 to 0.040 inches and a flexural modulus in the range of 75,000 to 200,000 psi;

said sheet having a Rockwell hardness in excess of 72;

placing said sheet on a flat surface;

placing a food article on said sheet;

cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;

flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;

lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said cut pieces; and

funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.